

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 FRB-03 XMB-02

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BL

SUBJECT: BOLIVIAN BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY SEMINAR

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED.

1. LA PAZ BRANCH OF BANK OF BOSTON PLANS SPONSOR ECONOMIC SEMINAR BY HIGH LEVEL GOB OFFICIALS, INCLUDING MINISTER OF PLANNING GENERAL JUAN LECHIN SUAREZ, IN NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 1, 1975. LECHIN WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SUBSECRETARY OF COORDINATION CARLOS CALVO, PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR ADALBERTO VIOLAND, AND DIRECTOR, NATIONAL FINANCE INSTITUTE, HECTOR ORMACHEA. GROUP PLANS ARRIVE NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 29 AND DEPART OCTOBER 3 FOR LONDON AND FRANKFURT, WHERE SIMILAR SEMINARS PLANNED FOR OCTOBER 7 AND 9.

2. SEMINAR APPARENTLY ORIGINALLY IDEA OF HECTOR ORMACHEA, DIRECTOR OF MINFIN'S INSTITUTE OF FINANCE, AND PICKED UP BY BANK OF BOSTON, IN ACCORDANCE WITH ITS PROPOSAL TO OPEN A BRANCH IN LA PAZ, (WHICH OPENED HERE IN JUNE).

3. PURPOSE OF SEMINARS IS TO IMPROVE BOLIVIA'S IMAGE AMONG FOREIGN INVESTMENT COMMUNITY, PUBLICIZE BOLIVIA'S IMPROVED POLITICAL

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STABILITY AND GROWING ECONOMY, AND ATTRACT NEW INVESTMENT FINAN-

CING. BANK OF BOSTON'S LOCAL ASSISTANT MANAGER, JOHN H. CHAMBER-LAIN, WILL ACCOMPANY GROUP AND INTRODUCE SEMINAR DISCUSSIONS. WE ARE SENDING BY POUCH SEMINAR PROGRAM, WHICH WILL INCLUDE PRESENTATIONS BY LECHIN, CALVO, ORMACHEA AND VIOLAND; AND LEAVE TIME FOR DISCUSSIONS WITH INVITEES. FOUR BOLIVIAN BUSINESSMEN WILL TRAVEL WITH GOB GROUP AND PARTICIPATE IN DISCUSSIONS.

4. WHILE SEMINAR STRICTLY A GOB/BANK OF BOSTON UNDERTAKING, THEY HAVE REQUESTED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE AND WE WISH TO BE HELPFUL TO EXTENT OF PROVIDING LIST OF POSSIBLE INVITEES FROM PUBLIC AND PRIVATE INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE BUSINESS. HOWEVER, WE DON'T BELIEVE USG SHOULD PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN PROMOTING SEMINAR. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. IN BRIEFING ON SEMINAR, ORMACHEA ADVISED EMBOFFS THAT SINCE GROUP PLANS TO BE IN U.S. FOR ENTIRE WEEK, GOB MEMBERS AVAILABLE FOR OTHER MEETINGS AND WILLING VISIT WASHINGTON. WE THINK THIS EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY TO BOOST USG-GOB RELATIONS BY ARRANGING FOR MINISTER LECHIN AND MEMBERS OF PARTY TO MEET WITH SEVERAL HIGH-LEVEL USG OFFICIALS. WE SUGGEST MEETINGS WITH FOLLOWING.

(A) UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE ROBINSON ON COMMODITY AND ENERGY MATTERS;

B. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS OF GENERAL U.S. POL/ECON RELATIONS WITH LA;

C. EXIM BANK PRESIDENT ON BOLIVIA'S IMPROVED ECONOMIC/FINANCIAL SITUATION AND POTENTIAL FOR IMPROVING US EXPORTS AND EXPORT FINANCING TO BOLIVIA;

D. AID/LA DIRECTOR KLEINE TO DISCUSS USG ASSISTANCE TO BOLIVIA AND POSSIBLE POLICY, INSTITUTIONAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES GOB COULD TAKE TO FURTHER IMPROVE EFFICIENCY OF AID UTILIZATION AND ABSORPTIVE CAPACITY;

E. USUN, NEW YORK. THIS WOULD BE MORE A COURTESY ORIENTED VISIT IN RECOGNITION OF BOLIVIA'S CLOSE COOPERATION WITH US ON UN MATTERS. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.

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6. ACTION REQUESTED:
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A. REQUEST USDOC PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH LIST OF RECOMMENDED INVITEES TO SEMINAR FOR TRANSMITTAL TO BANK OF BOSTON, LA PAZ. BANK OF BOSTON HOPES HAVE ABOUT 100-150 PERSONS PARTICIPATE. FINAL SEMINAR ARRANGEMENTS IN NEW YORK, INCLUDING FORMAL INVITATIONS, WILL BE HANDLED BY MR. O. WHITE OR MR. R. SMITH, BANK OF BOSTON, NYC. ALSO REQUEST USUAL USG COURTESIES FOR GROUP IN NEW YORK. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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B. REQUEST DEPARTMENT ADVISE ON SUGGESTED LECHIN VISIT TO
WASHINGTON AND PROPOSED MEETINGS. FYI: WE WILL REFRAIN FROM
DISCUSSING WASHINGTON VISIT WITH GOB AND BANK OF BOSTON UNTIL
WE RECEIVE DEPARTMENT'S REPLY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE.
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